

CONFIDENTIAL

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1. At the present time the population of all areas of China under Chinese Communist control is thoroughly disillusioned with the administration for which such high hopes were once held. Basic causes of this violent reaction are the confiscatory taxation, civil maladministration, and famine. Some of the famine conditions are the result of natural causes, but even here official corruption is a contributing factor.
2. This popular dislike, often hatred, is not evident in overt action in the cities, where police and garrisons can take preventive measures. In the country districts all over China, however, the peasantry is forcibly resisting local controls by any means, including armed attacks on officials and on government agencies. Many local guerrilla groups as well as political secret societies have been organized, according to the traditional Chinese methods for resisting oppression and misgovernment.
3. While the administration of North China is better than that of South China, the increased severity of the famines in the north increases the hatred of the Communists there.
4. This popular rebellion in the country is totally unconnected with the efforts of the Nationalists to organize guerrilla activities on the mainland. The Nationalist Government is no more popular than the Communist, because of its incompetence in the past and because it failed to protect the people from the Communists. The people remember fully and clearly that the Nationalist armies rarely, and frequently never, offered serious resistance to the Communist armies. The people are relying on themselves and do not expect the Nationalists to return.
5. This condition of rebellion, however, is temporary; being the period, for instance, during which individuals are seizing spoils of conquest in the wake of the successful war. Sooner or later the Communist authorities will develop the means to enforce discipline and maintain effective control, and simultaneously mass starvation will reduce population pressures and contribute in this way to stabilization of the economy.

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